THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on date, foreign private companies have shown interest to set up 33 power projects for 21289 MW costing Rs. 69471 crores.

POWER SHORTAGE

2668. SHRI DAVID LEDGER : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of overall power shortage in the country during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for such shortage; and

(c) what are the steps Government propose to take to increase the generation capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) During the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93, the overall percentage of energy shortage in the country was 7.9 per cent, 7.8 per cent and 8.3 per cent respectively.

(b) The main reasons for power shortage in the country were growth in demand out-stripping the growth in generation of power, constraints of funds with power utilities for capacity addition as well as for undertaking Renovation and Modernisation programme, unsatisfactory performance of some thermal power stations and Atomic Power Stations etc.

(c) In order to increase the generating capacity in the country, it is envisaged to add 30558 MW capacity during the 8th Plan. Various other measures being taken to improve the generation in the country from the existing plants include Renovation and Modernisation of old units, assistance to Electricity Boards in undertaking Plant. Betterment Programme supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal and natural gas, training of operation and maintenance personnel, strengthening of transmission and distribution system.

BIDS FOR VINDHYACHAL EXTENSION PROJECT

2669. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MOHAJAN : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has changed its qualifying requirements for bidders for boiler contract of Rs. 1500 crores for Vindhyachal Extension Project to accommodate Italian Power Utiliy Anasaldo and ACC Babcock Ltd.;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for relaxation of conditions of eligibility to these two parties to enable them to bid for the contract; and

(c) the number of bids received so far from Indian and foreign parties and what are the names and details of such parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) Vindhyachal Extension is a World Bank financed project and Qualification requirements for it were to be fixed in consultation with the Bank. It was represented to the Bank that NTPC's Qualification requirement would exclude certain bidders. In order to generate competition, NTPC agreed with the World Bank to modify its Qualification requirements.

(c) Bids have been received for boiler from the following parties.

Indian Parties:

(i) M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.

(ii) M/s ACC Babcock Ltd., India in Joint Venture with Foster Wheeler Engineering Corpn. USA.